REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 10-18 are pending.

Claims 10-18 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kirsch, et al., US 6,018,733 (Kirsch). The Applicants respectfully traverse.

A key feature of the present invention, as expressed in the amended claims, is that a set of documents (which may comprise one or more documents), resulting from a first search of a first document database, provides an input to the first document database. The first document database produces terms from the input document set, which then form the basis for a subsequent search of a second document database. Thus, two document databases are searched separately; the first using an input of one or more documents, the second using terms generated by the first document database from a document set input to the first document database.

Independent claim 10 requires that the document set ("at least one document") result from a first search conducted by a first search input, to said first document database, of a set of keywords, fragments of a document, or any desired set of documents. Further, claim 10 requires that the terms comprise a weighted term list, the weight of each term reflecting the

importance of the term in the first document database, and

that the weighted term list be used as a second search input

for performing the search of the second document database.

Each term in the term list is weighted considering the

importance of the term both in the first document database and

the second document database, and the weight is used to

calculate the relevance of each document of the second

document database, according to claim 10.

Kirsch, on the other hand, is directed to a method of

selecting the likely most relevant collections for searching

based on an ad hoc query (column 4, lines 38-41).

Specifically, Kirsch teaches iterative steps of ranking the

databases of a meta-database (collection of databases) to

select a subset of potentially relevant databases for a

search, which is then conducted on the selected databases in a

known manner. Thus, Kirsch first searches a collection of

databases (not the documents contained therein) to determine

which databases to search, and then performs the actual search

on the selected databases. Kirsch neither discloses nor

suggests to search the documents of a first document database,

develop terms from the results of the first document search,

and then search a second database with the terms developed

thereby.

In this regard, in the passages cited by the Examiner, column 4, lines 38-67 of Kirsch simply set forth the general summary of Kirsch's method, as outlined above. Column 5, lines 5-22 describe alleged advantages of distilling databases from the meta-database prior to performing the desired search of documents.

Column 2, lines 44-49 describe a prior approach dismissed by Kirsch in subsequent passages, including column 3, lines 24-62. Finally, column 9, lines 9-56 and column 15, lines 10-48 (and the abstract) simply detail the meta-database approach discussed above, and do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Independent claim 18 sets forth a method in which a client transmits a set of documents in a first search input to a server where a first document database is stored, receives a summary comprising only topic words related to the set of documents which is sent, sends a second search input corresponding to the summary reflecting a user's evaluation of the summary to a server where a second document database is stored, and receives a search result from the search of the second document database, wherein the server storing the first document database produces the summary of topic words relevant to the set of documents sent by the client and transmits the
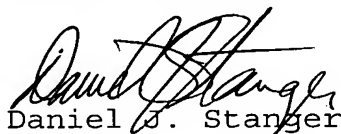
summary to the client, and searches and transmits a set of

documents having a high relevance to any desired summary sent

by the client, to the client.

Against these features, the Examiner notably cites Kirsch

disclosure of an "existing base collection" as corresponding

to the claimed "topic words" developed from the first document

database and used to search the second document database.

Kirsch's "existing base collections", however, are collections

of documents described by an index or indexes from which a

collection meta-index is derived. It is the collection meta-

index against which a search is performed according to Kirsch,

and thus the "existing base collection" cannot correspond to

the claimed "topic words". Of course, as noted above, Kirsch

does not disclose the claimed searching of a second document

database using a summary comprising only topic words related

to a set of documents which is sent to a first document

database, reflecting a user's evaluation of the summary, and

receiving a search result from the search of the second

document database, wherein the server storing the first

document database produces the summary of topic words relevant

to the set of documents sent by the client and transmits the

summary to the client, and searches and transmits a set of

documents having a high relevance to any desired summary sent

by the client, to the client, all as required by claim 18.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any

additional fees which may be required, or to credit any

overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

Respectfully submitted,

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